


STATE OF INDIANA

STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA



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TO: Indiana Higher Education Financial Aid Offices
FROM: Channelle Ragland, State Director 
RE: Twenty-first Century Scholars Summer GEAR UP Scholarship
DATE: March 30, 2012

The Summer GEAR UP Scholarship is a grant of up to \$1,500 that may be used by eligible Twenty-first Century Scholars to pay for the summer sessions before the fall of first enrollment or the summer session after the student's first year of college. The Scholarship can be used only by Scholars who are high school students going to college for the first time or freshmen finishing their first year in college.

This year, applications for the Summer GEAR UP scholarship are unnecessary. Institutions will have the ability to identify students who meet the Scholarship requirements and claim the award per student through xGrads. The total amount available for Summer GEAR UP is \$525,000, and Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. This will be the last year this Scholarship is available.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Summer GEAR UP Scholarship, students must:

1. Be affirmed Twenty-first Century Scholars.
2. Be eligible to receive the Federal Pell Grant.
3. Be either high school seniors entering college for the first time or freshmen in college finishing the first year and currently receiving a Twenty-first Century Scholarship.
4. Have filed a 2012-2013 FAFSA on time (by March 10, 2012).
5. Be enrolled as full-time college students and eligible to receive the Twenty-first Century Scholarship in the fall term following the summer course session.
6. Enrolled in either summer college preparatory classes, prerequisites or those classes that would be considered required classes for their college majors.

Priority of selection

Institutions should follow the order of preference below when identifying and claiming awards on behalf of eligible students:

1. Graduating high school seniors who are scheduled to be enrolled as full-time college students in the fall and who are taking remedial or prerequisite courses during the summer.
2. Freshman college students completing their first year of college who will have obtained 30 credit hours or less prior to the summer session.
3. All other eligible students.

Scholarship amount

The amount of the Scholarship is determined by the number of eligible course credit hours taken by the student during the summer. The Scholarship can be used to pay for educational expenses, including tuition and fees, room, board, books, miscellaneous expenses and transportation. If there is a credit after the Scholarship is applied to the student's account, the remaining funds may be disbursed to the student if the student has unmet cost-of-attendance need.

Credit Hours	Scholarship Amount
3	\$500
6	\$1,000
9+	\$1,500

Billing instructions

Institutions may submit billing through xGrads beginning Monday, April 30. Institutions may bill Scholarship awards prior to the close of the applicable refund period. However, institutions must notify SSACI within 14 days of the close of the institution's summer refund period if the institution will be refunding any Scholarship funds so those funds can be made available to other students.

The Scholarship should be referred to as the "Twenty-first Century Scholars GEAR UP Scholarship" on any documentation. Institutions are expected to make a reasonable effort to notify students if they are a recipient of the Scholarship.

As a reminder, Scholarship funds are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The balance of the Scholarship fund will be viewable by institutions through xGrads.

Assistance

If you have questions about the Twenty-first Century Scholars Summer GEAR UP Scholarship, please contact Brenda Denny, Twenty-first Century Scholar GEAR UP Coordinator, at 317.234.1430 or bdenny@ssaci.in.gov.